

# Anti-Rat Trash Storage Tips

Controlling food sources, especially trash, is the best way to control rat populations. Below are some easy trash storage tips to protect your business and your neighborhood from these unwanted visitors!

Keep dumpsters, barrels, and other trash storage containers securely closed at night



If you find that your trash receptacles are consistently too full to close, consider investing in bigger containers, more containers, or more frequent trash pickups. Also make sure that these containers are free from cracks or holes!



Make sure **employees** know best practices for dumpster use

They should understand the importance of securely closing the dumpster, not over-filling it, tying bags shut, cleaning spills, and carrying bags to the dumpster, instead of dragging them.

Store trash **away from raised structures** like walls, fences, benches, plants, or tables



Rats can use these raised structures to climb up and into trash. You can also enclose the containers with a fence or wall that reaches the ground, keeping rats away from the container in the first place.

Store trash containers on **concrete or asphalt**, not soil



This will help prevent rats from burrowing underneath the container

Use **thick plastic trash bags** that can be securely tied closed



This will help control smells and leaks, making it harder for rats to find the trash in the first place

**Easy access to food is almost always the cause of rat activity in an area.**

Eliminating these food sources is the easiest and most inexpensive way to prevent these pests from becoming a problem

For more information, please contact:  
Division of Development Services,  
978-674-4144

To report a rat sighting or  
evidence of rat activity,  
please email  
[rodents@lowellma.gov](mailto:rodents@lowellma.gov)